

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Volume 2, Issue 13, June 20, 2003

Inside this issue:

Message from the Mayor 1

Anacostia Riverwalk Groundbreaking 2

Employee Profile 2

One-Stop Career Center for Veterans Opens 3

District Summer Programs 3

Georgetown Streetscape Unveiled 4

Washington Association of Black Journalists 4

District Activities 5

Community News 5

Upcoming Events 5

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Penn. Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 727-2980
Fax: (202) 727-6561
<http://dc.gov>

Message from the Mayor

On Saturday, June 14, I woke up early and put the pedal to the pavement.

I joined members of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), District officials, and other cyclists on the "Fifty States Tour—Quest for the 51st Star," a 60-plus mile bike ride to promote voting rights for the District of Columbia. Riders had the chance to pedal from Alabama to Wyoming—on every state-named street and avenue in Washington, DC. We scheduled the ride on Flag Day to draw attention to the fact that there's a very important star missing on the American flag—one that represents the people of the District of Columbia.

The ride began and ended at the John A. Wilson building and took about six hours to complete. It passed through a variety of neighborhoods, communities and landmarks in the District. The ride included steep climbs near the Potomac River Valley, Rock Creek Valley and Anacostia River.

The ride began with a rally at 8 a.m. in front of the Wilson Building. We also had rallies at mile 9.8 at Maine Avenue, SW and 9th Street, and at Eastern Market at mile 25.7. Joining me were Ilir Zherka, Executive Director of DC Vote; Jon Fleming, 50 States Bike Tour Director; Ellen Jones, Executive Director, Washington Area Bicyclist Association; and, Martha Roskowski, Coordinator, America Bikes Campaign, who supplied bicycle flags for the event.

As most of our citizens know, District of Columbia residents pay taxes and serve to defend our great nation, yet we have no voting rights. This is a grave injustice. District of Columbia citizens need the same rights as all American citizens—from Idaho to Alabama.

One of my chief goals is to promote the District voting rights across the United States and enlighten our fellow citizens about our plight. We need full Congressional voting rights and full self-government in the District of Columbia, and the time for it is now.

Our city hall, the John A. Wilson Building, sits between the U.S. Capitol and the White House. But it's a tragedy that the citizens who live in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol have been denied their representative government for more than 200 years.

From his desk in the White House, President Kennedy declared, in his civil rights address, that our nation should have no second class citizens and that "this Nation, for all its hopes and all its boasts, will not be fully free until all its citizens are free." If democracy has prevailed throughout our country, then democracy must prevail in our Nation's Capital.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the dedicated citizens who took time out of their Saturday to join me in the Fifty States Tour. Their passion for District of Columbia voting rights is an inspiration to all of us—and I look forward to taking part in the bicycle ride again next year. By that time, I hope we'll be even closer to our goal.



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

Anacostia Riverwalk Groundbreaking

As part of my long term effort to help revitalize the Anacostia River and its surroundings, I joined a host of local and federal officials on June 12 to commemorate the groundbreaking of the first phase of the Anacostia Riverwalk.

Joining me were Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, U.S. Secretary of Interior Gale Norton, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christie Todd Whitman, and National Park Service Director Fran Mainella. Together, we put our shovels in the ground to launch the Riverwalk, a multi-use trail that will greatly expand public access to both banks of the Anacostia River. A combined project of the District of Columbia and the National Park Service, the Anacostia Riverwalk is a cornerstone of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative. It will open access to more than five miles of the Anacostia waterfront with 20 miles of trails for walkers and bicyclists.



Mayor Williams joins U.S. Interior Secretary Gale Norton, EPA Administrator Christie Todd Whitman and Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton for groundbreaking.

The groundbreaking event kicked off the construction of four demonstration segments of the trail, a total of over one mile of trails on both sides of the Anacostia River. President Bush has proposed including \$10 million towards the construction of the Riverwalk in his FY 2004 budget.

Three years ago, on the banks of the Anacostia River, representatives from 18 federal and District agencies joined me to sign the memorandum that created the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative. Since then, under the leadership of Andrew Altman and the DC Office of Planning, this partnership has become the most important ever created between the District and the Federal Government. It sets forth a plan to reconnect our city with the Anacostia River and revitalize the neighborhoods along its waterfront.

The Anacostia Riverwalk includes a continuous trail system on both sides of the Anacostia River connecting the Fish Wharf to the Navy Yard; Capitol Hill to Historic Anacostia; and River Terrace to the skating rink and recreation fields in Anacostia Park. The Riverwalk is just one step in renewing the Anacostia and its waterfront. With funding in part from the EPA, we're restoring 42 acres of wetlands on Kingman Island, one of the islands in the Anacostia. EPA Administrator Whitman has been very supportive in the Anacostia cleanup.

I pledge to continue working hard to reconnect the vibrant life of our neighborhoods to the Anacostia River.

Employee Profile

Roxanna Deane

Roxanna Deane has been with the District of Columbia Public Library for 34 years and has held numerous important positions, including Chief of the Washingtoniana Division from 1968 to 1999. She also completed the Center for Excellence in Municipal Management program in 1999. In her current position as Change Agent for Internal Affairs, Roxanna is instrumental in making a positive impact on how the library is able to serve its customers by improving the efficiency of the staff and its resources. For these accomplishments she has won several awards and is highly admired by her colleagues.

Effective management of public access computers and the printing from those computers was one of the most significant and time-saving changes to the library in recent years. Roxanna found that with an un-automated system, librarians spent an excessive amount of time manually booking customers on a limited number of computers, which made it difficult for patrons to wait. Her goal was to make using the popular public access computers fairer and easier.



Roxanna Deane

By working with the Office of Contracting and Procurement as well as the Office of the Chief Financial Officer from the beginning, Roxanna avoided pitfalls common to projects of this magnitude. She also engaged the frontline internal customers and the IT Department. The resulting system places the D.C. Public Library on the cutting edge in the area of computer sign-up and print management.

For Roxanna, this was a personal mission—she felt that it was a reflection not just of her but of the entire library system. For librarians and customers, the new procedures have been a huge success. Librarians are able to spend time helping customers who search for information, and customers are able to peruse the library's holdings without fear of losing their place in the computer queue.

Thanks, Roxanna, for a job well done!



LINK TO OTHER WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

One-Stop Career Center for Veterans Opens

On June 5, I joined federal and local officials to open the District's newest one-stop career center—this one targeted to meet the needs of District of Columbia veterans. The timing of this opening is crucial, as we have veterans currently transitioning to civilian life following the war in Iraq. The Veterans Affairs One-Stop Career Center is the first one-stop center in the nation to provide full-time collaborative veterans benefits with comprehensive job search and training assistance in a VA facility. It's co-located with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The center will provide comprehensive job search and training assistance in conjunction with federal veterans' services. Veterans and their eligible dependents will benefit by the onsite location. They will have immediate access to direct staff assistance, necessary documentation and supportive resources from both the District Department of Employment Services and the Veterans Administration.

I am pleased to direct city resources to ensure that our veterans are well served—much as they have served us in times of war and peace. The new center has been designed specifically to benefit service men and women, from all wars, who need advice and guidance in finding employment and training opportunities that will provide them with economic security and employment. Below you can find a full list of all of the one-stop career centers in the District:

South Capitol One-Stop Career Center/CVS pharmacy
4049 South Capitol Street, SW
Washington, DC 20032
(202) 645-4000

Judiciary Square Satellite One-Stop Career Center
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 727-9726

Franklin Street One-Stop Career Center
1500 Franklin Street, NE
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 724-7000

Naylor Road One-Stop Career Center
2626 Naylor Road, SE
Washington, DC 20020
(202) 724-7000

A. Philip Randolph Worker Center/Satellite One-Stop Career Center
6210 North Capitol Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20011
(202) 576-6515

Business Improvement District (BID) Satellite One-Stop Career Center
945 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 724-4541

US Veterans Assistance Center, Veterans Affairs Regional Office
1722 I Street, NW (Room 335)
Washington, DC 20421
(202) 530-9371

Euclid Street Satellite One-Stop Career Center
1705 Euclid Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 724-7000

Project Empowerment (Welfare-to-Work Participants Only)
609 H Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 724-7000

District Summer Programs

I am pleased to announce that I am allocating an additional \$5.3 million for youth programs this summer. The funding will come from the state-level fiscal relief provided by Congress in the tax package approved several weeks ago. Nothing could be more important for our young people right now—they are out of school and they need to be active, to earn some money and to stay out of trouble. A total of \$5 million of this funding will support 8,000 children who will now have productive and educational summer activities; \$300,000 will go toward ensuring that we meet our goal of providing 5,000 summer jobs for young people.

Below you will find a listing in brief of the District's summer programs. Visit the Safe Passages Summer 2003 website for further information on all of the District of Columbia government's summer programs at www.summeryouthprogram.dc.gov.

DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation (CYITC)—The DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation (CYITC) provides a wide range of daylong summer programs across the District. These programs combine resources from DC Public Schools with the experience of community organizations to provide quality activities for District children. The CYITC funds programs operated by community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, public schools, and charter schools. These summer activities will serve 12,000 children and youth between the ages of 5 and 18. Children who participate in the activities will receive breakfast and lunch through the **Summer Food Service Program**. All programs will run from June 30 through August 8.

Department of Employment Services (DOES)—DOES runs several summer and year-round programs to help young people in the District of Columbia make a smooth transition to the 21st century workforce. Our Passport to Work Youth Employment Services programs are designed to help young adults, aged 14 to 21, gain the valuable skills and training needed to succeed in the labor market, classroom, and society.



District Summer Programs, con't.

DC Public Libraries

- **Summer Quest 2003: Blast Off To Reading** - Summer Quest is a D.C. Public Library annual summer reading program that encourages children from the ages of 3-12 to continue reading over the summer break. This year's theme is Blast Off to Reading.
- **Holla' Back at DCPL** - Holla' Back at DCPL is a new summer reading program that encourages young adults from the ages of 13-19 to continue reading over the summer break.

DC Parks and Recreation - DC Parks and Recreation works to deliver all-inclusive recreational programs to all District residents. Camp choices cover a wide spectrum, from nature trails to performing arts. New programs will encompass areas such as environmental education, theater/fine arts, lacrosse, rowing and sailing. During the summer, several recreation centers will reopen after undergoing, in some cases, major renovations. Facilities re-opening this summer include Emery, Kennedy, Sherwood and Capital East Natatorium.

District of Columbia Public Schools - The DCPS Summer School Program is designed to support and strengthen the academic performance of students in the curriculum areas of reading and mathematics. This support will assist students with reaching the required academic benchmarks for successful completion of school.

Georgetown Streetscape Unveiled

On June 4, I was pleased to join Councilmember Jack Evans (Ward 2) and other local officials to launch the streetscape phase of The Georgetown Project. Together, we unveiled a completed area in the 3300 block of M Street, NW. This completed section of sidewalk on the south side of M Street is a great example of what the sidewalks will soon look like along Wisconsin and M Street. The Georgetown Project is a \$40 million coordinated effort to upgrade the area's utilities and streetscape involving Pepco, Verizon, Washington Gas, the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority and the D.C. Department of Transportation. Since the October 2001 start of the effort, all parties have worked to keep Georgetown open for business by minimizing disturbances for businesses, residents and visitors. Utility work takes place at night (10 pm – 8 am).

The final streetscape improvement will consist of one million new bricks for sidewalks and gutters along with new curbing, streetlights, traffic signals, tree grates, trees, trashcans, bike racks, newspaper corrals and sign poles. The new streetscape will be installed as The Georgetown Project utility upgrades are completed along M Street, from Key Bridge to Pennsylvania Avenue, and along Wisconsin Avenue, from K Street to R Street. Final paving will follow the streetscape installation, with M Street to be completed by the summer of 2004.

The Community Relations Team (CRT) chaired by Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Len Levine has been key to the progress of The Georgetown Project. Every week the CRT discusses all phases of the project to make sure all points-of-view are heard. The CRT recently agreed to extend the workday by an hour to keep the project on schedule. The Georgetown community has been with us for more than 200 years. It's a thriving residential and business community and prime tourist destination. It's an important commercial, entertainment and business area, and a vital part of our transportation network. I'm proud to say we're well on our way to a successful completion of this project.

Washington Association of Black Journalists

On June 10, I honored three phenomenal African-American journalists with proclamations declaring June 10, 2003 Colbert I. King, Dorothy Gilliam and George Curry Day in the District of Columbia. Their outstanding contributions, dedication and talent in the field of journalism are an inspiration to all of us. While recognized nationally, Colby, Dorothy and George have never forgotten that often the most important issues are local.

Colbert I. King was the 2003 Pulitzer Prize winner for Distinguished Commentary. He is a columnist who writes on national, local and international topics for The Washington Post. He is known for his hard-hitting columns that focus the spotlight on the plight of the poor and underprivileged in Washington, D.C. and around the world.

George Curry, editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) News Service, was named 2003 Journalist of the Year by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). He is a former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine, a preeminent African-American news publication. His columns are syndicated by NNPA to more than 200 African-American newspapers. He was elected president of the American Society of Magazine Editors, the first African American to hold that office.

Dorothy Gilliam, the first full-time African American columnist at The Washington Post, is retiring after 35 years. A former president of NABJ, she has accepted a fellowship at George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs. There, she will help develop a summer institute to train high school journalism advisers from minority communities. The mission of the Washington Association of Black Journalists is to educate members and advocate within the news business for greater diversification of the profession.



District Activities



Mayor Williams was joined by Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen during an afternoon boat ride around the Anacostia River on June 16.



Mayor Williams and Parks and Recreation Director Neal Albert hand out free books to children who gathered for the kickoff of the Park's Department's summer reading program.



Wilson High School baseball players pose with Mayor Williams during a baseball rally in downtown DC.



Mayor Williams addressed a crowd at the "city living dc style" rally at Farragut Square on June 11.

Community News

- [Truck 15 Receives National Acclaim for Heroism](#)
- [Mayor Testifies on Budget Autonomy in the District](#)
- [Governor Warner and Mayor Williams Deliver Congestion Relief to Potomac River](#)
- [Mayor Williams Embraces Conclusions in GAO Report](#)

[View all news releases](#)

Upcoming Events

06/21 to 06/22	11th Annual National Capital Barbecue Battle Pennsylvania Avenue between 7th and 13th Streets, NW
06/28	DC Healthy Families Fit for a Lifetime - Men Make it Happen Health and Wellness Conference 8:30 am Hamilton Crowne Plaza 14th and K Streets, NW
06/28	11th Annual DC Caribbean Carnival Parade 12 Noon 3rd Street and Madison Avenue, NW
6/29	District of Columbia Day Celebration 11:00 am Washington National Cathedral Massachusetts and Wisconsin Avenues, NW

[View the Mayor's daily schedule](#)

